

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Adjustments in Power Consumption

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The increased production of electric power which appears in the most recent economic plans is misleading, because production capacity has not been appreciably expanded. The increase in kilowatt hours is the result of strict application of the system of work-shifts (Schichtensystem) in the enterprises. Several enterprises in the Dresden area, for instance, are now working only at night. By internal adjustments, peak requirements have been lessened. As a result of these measures, switch-offs for civilian consumers have become appreciably less frequent. In Dresden switch-offs have ceased altogether.

2. Defects in Power Production

The principal defect in East German electric power production is the shortage of high-grade generators. Generators of this quality have been imported

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For the first time, three small generators have now been constructed in East Germany (by Bergmann-Borsig). A similar situation exists with regard to the production of transformers (made in Dresden). Special weaknesses of their production are plates which do not hold up under the demands placed upon them, and insulating material inadequate to bear up under differences of potential. All in all, the adjustment of current use is bound to prove disastrous (verhaengnisvoll) in the end, because the turbines are bearing heavier loads and depreciate more rapidly with the greater consumption of power resultant from night work.

3. Electric Power Plants

After 1945, no major power plants in East Germany were put into operation. The Niederwartha (East Saxony) power plant with facilities for pumping to storage pond (Pumpenspeicherwerk) is soon to be rebuilt and expanded. The most important East German power plants are still those of Golpa, Espenhain, Finkenheerd, Klingenberg, and Hirschfelde near Zittau. Hirschfelde supplies a minor portion (Minderheit) of its current to Poland and Czechoslovakia. Current supplied to Poland is counted as reparations. Current supplied to Czechoslovakia is the consequence of the fact that a part of the installation, by the change

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of boundaries in 1945, found itself located on the territory of Czechoslovakia. A certain easing of the power situation has taken place through use of local power plants of some of the largest industrial enterprises, such as Leuna, which were SAGs up to 1953. These plants can now be used for supplying current even beyond the area of the enterprises concerned.

4. Water Power

Water power plays almost no role in the economy of East Germany. The installations are only minimal ones.

1. Comment: This measure as a means of saving electricity was forecast in 1954.

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